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Community *notes*

Upcoming Town Hall and Budget Meetings

Town Hall Meeting

Community members are invited to discuss any concerns regarding the state of the county with the County Executive at his next Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. at Fulton Elementary School (11600 Scaggsville Rd). This is a great opportunity to voice any concerns you may have about the community and to discuss values and interests with the Executive. Sign in begins at 6:30 p.m. and no advance registration is required.

Second Citizens' Budget Hearing FY 2018

The County Executive will hold his second Citizens' Budget Hearing for the FY 2018 budget cycle on Wednesday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the George Howard Building (3430 Court House Dr. Banneker Room). Residents may submit testimony or sign-up to testify at the hearing through the county's [website](#). Residents who do not wish to register in advance will be able to sign-up at the hearing beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Women Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Celebrate the lives and accomplishments of five truly extraordinary women as they are inducted into the Howard County Commission for Women's Hall of Fame on Thursday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building (3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City). Congratulations to Mary Catherine Cochran, Sandra Harriman, Stacie Hunt, Dr. Abbie Diane Martin and Margaret Schultz for being recognized for their significant contributions to public service in our county. For more information on this event, visit the County's [website](#), call 410-313-6400 or email women@howardcountymd.gov.

Greetings

The start of a new month marks the beginning of Columbia's 50th anniversary festivities. Enjoy the many events and activities highlighted this week.

Mary Kay

Road Closings

Beginning on Monday, March 6 through Wednesday, March 8, Little Patuxent Parkway will be intermittently closed to traffic between Broken Land Parkway and The Mall's south access drive across from Symphony Woods. The interruption is due to the delivery of bridge precast beams for construction in the Merriweather District. The roadway will be closed for three 15-minute intervals each afternoon to allow tractor trailers to back down Merriweather Drive.

For further information, feel free to contact Nancy Tucker at The Howard Hughes Corporation at 410-964-5446.

50 Trees for 50 Years

In celebration of the Village of Wilde Lake's 50th anniversary, The Wilde Lake Community Association, in partnership with Columbia Association, will give away 50 trees to Wilde Lake residents in celebration of the Village's 50th anniversary. You must be a Wilde Lake homeowner with sufficient space to properly plant a tree on your property to qualify. Applications are available on the village's website or picked up at Slayton House. The application deadline is April 8, 2017. Trees will be available on a first come, first serve basis. If you have any questions, you may contact Bess Caplan at besswlvb@gmail.com.



Young Driver Collision Avoidance Training

The Howard County Police Department will instruct a defensive driving and vehicle control program on Saturday March 18, from 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for 16 – 20 year olds with a valid Maryland Class C license and a vehicle. This course will help new drivers who need more specialized experience on the road. Help our young drivers become confident on Howard County roads by enrolling them today. The cost is \$95.00 per student and will be held at the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center (2200 Scott Wheeler Dr. Marriottsville).



For more information or to register, call 410-313-3758 or email Jessica Beram at jberam@howardcountymd.gov.

Nature Center Friday Events

The Robinson Nature Center is hosting two full-dome planetarium events this Friday, March 3. The first, Family NatureSphere Night, starts at 6:30 p.m. and features the movie “Astronaut” along with a fun, family friendly planetarium presentation on the night sky. Get there early because as soon as the film starts, it’ll be too dark for late arrivals to find seats. This program is \$6/person, for ages 7+ and must be accompanied by an adult. (Event ends at 7:30 p.m.)



Following family night, there will be an 8:00 p.m. showing of the full-dome movie, “Impact!” preceded by a planetarium presentation on the current night sky and space science. This program is \$6 a person, and for 18 years and up.

For more information, visit [Robinson Nature Center’s website](#), or call 410-313-0400.

Silas Craft Collegians Program Fundraiser

Hunan Manor Restaurant in Columbia will be filled with hundreds of community members, elected officials, and Howard Community College faculty and staff from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, March 13 as they enjoy delicious food in support of the college’s Silas Craft Collegians Program. The program offers students mentorship and personalized attention in a supportive academic cohort to promote scholastic achievement, graduation, and transfers to four-year institutions. All proceeds from the evening will benefit the Silas Craft Collegians program and student scholarships.

Dinner tickets are \$45 or \$30 for seniors (60+) and can be purchased online or at the door. HCC student tickets are \$15 and can be purchased in person at the Foundation Office in McCuan Hall, Room 102. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit [Howard Community College’s website](#).

Howard County Sustainability Efforts

Citizens Protecting Watersheds

The Watershed Improvement Network is holding a meeting at Miller Branch library on Friday, March 3, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. The first presentation will cover the Nonprofit Watershed Partnership Program which helps faith-based and other nonprofits improve their stormwater management while helping offset their stormwater fee. The second short presentation will be about the Commercial Stormwater Solutions Workgroup, an effort to help improve stormwater management on private commercial property. Members of the public are encouraged to attend! No RSVP required. Check the WIN webpage for more information on the group.

Container Vegetable Gardening

The Town Center Community Association is hosting a container vegetable gardening information session on Saturday, March 18, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Historic Oakland. This presentation will focus on how to raise vegetables in small spaces, giving insight on container types, watering techniques, fertilization, etc. They will even discuss how to create a self-watering container out of HDPE 2 5 gallon buckets. Have you ever wanted to start growing vegetables but don’t have enough space? Now’s the time to learn how to make the most out of what you have!



Work Green Howard

The County’s Recycling Division has launched the Work Green Howard program, encouraging Howard County businesses to practice environmentally conscious decisions and report their recycling tonnage to be recognized for their green efforts. Businesses can report their recycling tonnage [online](#) and become a certified “Work Green Howard” business. Participants will receive a special designation to acknowledge their involvement in this environmentally-conscious program. The deadline to apply for Work Green Howard certification is **Friday, March 31, 2017.**

Spirit of Columbia Scholarship Award

Teens still have time left to apply for the 2017 Maggie J. Brown Spirit of Columbia Scholarship Award — a \$2,500 scholarship awarded to students who exhibit exceptional efforts in providing community service to benefit Columbia residents and those in the Columbia area. The deadline to submit a completed application is Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

For a list of the scholarship’s full requirements and to start filling out an application, visit [CA’s website](#). Or call 410-715-3161 or email SpiritofColumbia@ColumbiaAssociation.org for more information.

5th Annual Caregiver Conference

Are you a caregiver, do you know a caregiver, or do you support a caregiver through your work? Please attend the 5th Annual Caregiver Conference on Saturday, March 25, from 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. sponsored by the Howard County Office on Aging and Independence Caregiver Support Program. The event will be at the Glenwood Center (2400 Rt. 97, Cookeville MD). This year's conference will feature opening remarks from Nicole Absar, M.D., Director of the Memory Clinic at Integrace Copper Ridge, as well as breakout seminars, +20 exhibitors, a continental breakfast and lunch, and more.

[Visit the event website](#) for more information on the workshops, exhibits, and presentations for this event, and to register. The registration deadline is Friday, March 17.

Reminder: High School Musical Productions

March is full of marvelous theatrical productions brought to you by hard working high school students in our county. Starting this weekend, support our students by coming out to see their musicals! You may purchase your tickets online today or at the door.

Atholton High School: [13 The Musical](#)

Reservoir High School: [How to Succeed in Business](#)

River Hill High School: [The Little Mermaid](#)

Wilde Lake High School: [Seussical the Musical](#)

Centennial High School: [Hello Dolly!](#)

Youth Art Exhibit

Each year the Howard County Arts Council and the Howard County Public School System commemorate Youth Art Month with a special exhibit of artwork created by our students in grades K–12.



This year's theme, "Imagining Home: Creating Community," inspired hundreds of amazing works in a variety of media. The exhibit will open on Friday, March 10 at the Howard County Center for the Arts and there will be a free reception on

Friday, March 31 from 5:00 -7:00 p.m.

Journey Applications Open

The Journey Summer Camp program is funded by a grant from the WGC and takes rising 8th and 9th graders on a week long journey of self discovery and leadership development. At this unique program, each student identifies her own leadership skills, strengths, and weaknesses in a supportive and fun environment, which fosters increased self-esteem and confidence.

Applications are now being accepted from Howard County girls entering 8th and 9th grades next year. For more information please visit the [Maryland Leadership website](#).



The celebration of Columbia's 50th anniversary begins on Sunday, March 19, at 11:00 a.m. at the outdoor courtyard in the Mall! This 27-week festival commemorates this milestone with a wide range of activities, events, entertainers, and more. Columbia is one of the most successful and celebrated places to live in the United States and this year we are honoring its history, applauding the city it has become, and envisioning the future it holds for our community. A list of some of the upcoming events in March is provided below.

Sunday, March 19 11:00 a.m.

The Celebration Begins!

Come out to celebrate at the opening ceremony at the outdoor courtyard between Maggiano's and Season 52 and then after walk through the mall for entertainment and activities for all ages.

Monday, March 20—Saturday, May 6

Gail Holliday Wilde Lake Exhibit

Visit Slayton House in Wilde Lake and wander through the exhibit displaying historic posters created by Gail Holiday.

Friday, March 24 2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Howard County Conservancy Storytelling Event

Join twelve storytellers from Howard County at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center and listen to their personal stories reflecting on their experiences living in this vibrant community. For more information, follow this [link](#).

Sunday, March 26

Spring Walk & Photo Expo: "50,000 Daffodils in Bloom"

Walk through Downtown Columbia with Ned Tillman and experience the beauty of our environment.

Be sure to visit [Columbia 50th's website](#) for a list of upcoming events and activities.



Mary Kay Sigaty

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